JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The IC 44 sivil

provided by local rules of court. purpose of initiating the civil do	This form, approved by the	e Judicial Conference o	f the Unit	ted States in September 19	974, is requi	red for the use of t	the Clerk of Co	urt for	the		
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS							
BRAHIEM CARTER				CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, et al							
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.							
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A Christopher Markos, E 1515 Market Street, Su (215 557-0099	sq., Williams Cuker B	erezofsky,		Attorneys (If Known)	-						
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in On	e Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF PI	RINCIPA	L PARTIES (
1 U.S. Government				(For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF Citizen of This State 1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place 1 4 4 of Business In This State							
☐ 2 U.S. Government ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)				Citizen of Another State 2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State							
	<u>-</u>			en or Subject of a reign Country	3 🗖 3	Foreign Nation		1 6	1 6		
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box Onl	v)									
CONTRACT ☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment ☐ 151 Medicare Act ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY ☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property	□ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 340 Marine □ 345 Marine Product Liability □ 350 Motor Vehicle □ 355 Motor Vehicle □ 700 Personal Injury □ 362 Personal Injury Medical Malpractice ■ CIVIL RIGHTS ■ 440 Other Civil Rights □ 441 Voting □ 442 Employment □ 443 Housing/ Accommodations □ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment □ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	PERSONAL INJUR' 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITION Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Oth 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	2 69 69 69 69 69 69 69 6	DEFEITURE/PENALTY 5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 00 Labor/Management Relations 10 Railway Labor Act 15 Family and Medical Leave Act 10 Other Labor Litigation 10 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION 20 Naturalization Application Actions	422 Appe 423 With 28 U PROPE 820 Copy 830 Pater 840 Trade 861 HIA 862 Black 863 DIW 864 SSIE 865 RSI (FEDER 870 Taxe or D 871 IRS 26 U 871	RTY RIGHTS rights at emark SECURITY (1395ff) k Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g)) Title XVI	480 Consur 490 Cable/5 490 Cable/5 850 Securit Exchair 890 Other 5 891 Agricu 893 Enviro 895 Freedo 896 Arbitra 899 Admin Act/Re	Claims Aceapportic st and Bankerce ation eer Influe to Organizmer Cred Sat TV ies/Commage Statutory Itural Acommental in of Infontion istrative view or a y Decisio tutionalitt	ct onment king enced and zations lit modities/ Actions ts Matters ormation Procedure Appeal of on		
	moved from 3 I te Court	Appellate Court			r District	6 Multidistr Litigation					
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Action			(1	Service of the servic							
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.				CHECK YES only if demanded in complain JURY DEMAND: Yes No							
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE <u>Diamo</u>			DOCK!	ET NUMBER <u>1</u>	12-5690				
DATE 14		SIGNATURE OF AT	TORNEY	OF RECORD							

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

UDGE

MAG. JUDGE

Case 2:14-cv-07195-PD Document 1 Filed 12/19/14 Page 2 of 15

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar. Address of Plaintiff: 1445 E. Howell Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143 Address of Defendant: 3579 Gaul Street, Philadelphia, PA 19134 Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 6713 Gillespie Street, Philadelphia, PA (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space) Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock? $Yes\square$ (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) NoX Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? RELATED CASE, IF ANY Case Number: 12-5690 Date Terminated: Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions: 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? $N_0\square$ Yes 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously NoX terminated action in this court? 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? NoX CIVIL: (Place / in one category only) B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: A. Federal Question Cases: 1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 1.

Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2.

Airplane Personal Injury 3.

Assault, Defamation 3. D Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. □ Marine Personal Injury 4.

Antitrust 5.

Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 5. D Patent 6.

Other Personal Injury (Please specify) □ Labor-Management Relations 7. D Products Liability 7. X Civil Rights 8.

Products Liability — Asbestos 8.

Habeas Corpus 9. □ All other Diversity Cases 9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases (Please specify) 10. □ Social Security Review Cases 11. □ All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify) ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (Check Appropriate Category) I. Christopher Markos , counsel of record do hereby certify: Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; □ Relief other than monetary damages is sought. Attorney-at-Law NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38. I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

BRAHIEM CARTER

(Civ. 660) 10/02

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

CIVIL ACTION

Telephone	FAX Num	ber	E-Mail Address					
215-557-0099 215-557-067		73	cmarkos@wcblegal.com					
Date	Attorney-a	it-law	Attorney for					
12/18/14	Christopher M		Plaintiff					
(f) Standard Managemen	t – Cases that do no	ot fall into a	ny one of the other tracks.	(x)				
commonly referred to	as complex and that	at need spec	cks (a) through (d) that are ial or intense management by d explanation of special	()				
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.								
(c) Arbitration – Cases re	quired to be design	ated for arb	itration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	()				
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.								
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.								
SELECT ONE OF THE	FOLLOWING CA	ISE MANA	GEMENT TRACKS:					
plaintiff shall complete a filing the complaint and se side of this form.) In the designation, that defendar	Case Management force a copy on all deference event that a deferent shall, with its firs parties, a Case Man	Frack Design fendants. (Some dant does to appearance agement Tr	Reduction Plan of this court, counse pation Form in all civil cases at the tire see § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the renot agree with the plaintiff regarding e, submit to the clerk of court and ser ack Designation Form specifying the good.	ne of verse said ve on				
CITY OF PHILADE	CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, et al. : NO.							

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

BRAHIEM CARTER, :

Docket No.:

Plaintiff :

CIVIL ACTION

.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

v.

Law Department

1515 Arch Street, 14th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19102

and

POLICE OFFICERS JOHN L. :

SPEISER BADGE NO. 7169,

THOMAS LICIARDELLO BADGE : NO. 4383, and BRIAN REYNOLDS :

BADGE NO. 4268,

:

Defendants. :

Complaint (Civil Action)

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. In December 2012, local media revealed that several members of the Philadelphia Police Department's Narcotics Field Unit had, for a significant length of time, used improper and unconstitutional means to investigate and prosecute narcotics violations, including acquiring warrants by misrepresentation, illegally entering private property, illegally searching and detaining persons and property, and subjecting individuals to unlawful arrest, detention, and prosecution. Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams announced he would no longer accept testimony from Officers Michael Spicer, Thomas

Liciardello, Brian Reynolds, Perry Betts, Brian Speiser, and Lt. Robert Otto in drug cases, believing each had lost their credibility, and would no longer accept narcotics charges when any of these officers is a necessary witness. Since then, numerous cases these officers have been involved with have been dismissed or overturned. In fact, there is a longstanding history of egregious illegal and unconstitutional conduct on the part of Philadelphia Police Officers engaged in narcotics enforcement. Plaintiff brings this action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for money damages and other relief. Plaintiff seeks redress for false arrest and malicious prosecution, committed in violation of his rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Jurisdiction is founded upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343(1), (3), and (4). This Court has jurisdiction to adjudicate plaintiff's state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- 3. Venue is properly laid in this judicial district, as all defendants are found therein, and all acts and events giving rise to the complaint occurred therein.

III. PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff Brahiem Carter is a citizen of the United States with a residence in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the above captioned address, and at all relevant times to this case was in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- 5. Defendant City of Philadelphia is a municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and owns, operates, manages, directs, and controls the Philadelphia Police Department

- ("PPD"), and, by and through its officials with final authority to do so, promulgates, implements and maintains policies, practices and procedures for the Department and its police officers.
- 6. Defendants Liciardello, Speiser, and Reynolds ("defendant officers") are police officers for the Philadelphia Police Department and assigned to the Narcotics Field Unit ("NFU").

 The defendant officers are sued in their individual capacities.
- 7. At all relevant times, all defendants were acting in concert and conspiracy and their actions deprived plaintiff of his/her constitutional and statutory rights.
- 8. At all relevant times, all defendants acted under color of state law.

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 9. On or about November 15, 2010 plaintiff was residing at 6713 Gillespie Street in Philadelphia.
- 10. At that time and in the vicinity of 6713 Gillespie Street, defendant Liciardello, Speiser, and Reynolds were purportedly conducting surveillance in their capacity as NFU officers.
- 11. Defendant falsely represented that the surveillance was warranted based on an unidentified informant.
- 12. At no time on November 15, 2010 was plaintiff illegally in possession of any drugs, contraband items or materials, or engaged in any criminal conduct.
- 13. During the evening on November 15, 2010, plaintiff had left 6713 Gillespie Street to run errands for his family.
- 14. While he was driving, Carter began to believe he was being followed.
- 15. Carter circled the block where he lived, still believing he was being followed.
- 16. Carter parked his car and walked towards a crowded area.

- 26. On December 3, 2012, in light of its knowledge of the foregoing, the District Attorney's Office issued a letter to the Commissioner of the Philadelphia Police Department, declaring that the District Attorney would no longer accept testimony from Liciardello, Speiser, and Reynolds, *inter alia*.
- 27. On or about January 14, 2013, Carter's charges were nolle prossed.
- 28. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff suffered significant damages and harms, including but not limited to:
 - a) loss of liberty;
 - b) emotional distress;
 - c) deprivation of property;
 - d) interference with his daily activities;
 - e) deprivation and/or delay of educational opportunities, some or all of which are ongoing and/or permanent.
- 29. Plaintiff's damages and harms were caused by the culpable conduct of defendants, as alleged in greater detail hereinbelow.
- 30. The conduct of the defendant officers was carried out in wanton and outrageous disregard for the Constitution and plaintiff's rights thereunder, and was motivated solely by their self-interest, completely unrelated to the administration of justice, thereby warranting an award of exemplary damages against them.

V. CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I
Plaintiff v. Liciardello, Speiser, and Reynolds
42 U.S.C. § 1983

- 17. Soon thereafter, Carter was surrounded and seized by defendant officers, without legal justification for doing so.
- 18. Defendant officers drove Carter back to 6713 Gillespie Street, took Carter's keys, and entered the residence without legal justification for doing so.
- 19. Defendant officers falsely claimed to have found drugs, weapons, and contraband which they attributed to Carter.
- 20. While searching Carter's residence, defendant officers seized property for their own use.
- 21. Despite the absence of any evidence or probable cause for his arrest, defendant officers issued a criminal complaint against Carter, falsely asserting that drugs, weapons, and contraband were found in Carter's residence and automobile.
- 22. On the basis of the defendant's false representations and the related criminal complaint,
 Carter was charged with various weapons and drugs offenses.
- 23. Defendant officers offered false statements in testimony in Carter's preliminary hearing on or about February 22, 2011.
- 24. At the time of his arrest and prosecution, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office and the Philadelphia Police Department were aware of a long-standing pattern of misconduct perpetrated by defendant officers.
- 25. Said pattern included the fabrication of probable cause of searches and seizures, false arrests, misleading and or deceptive affidavits and other statements of probable cause, fabrication of confidential informants, theft of money and other property from suspects and arrestees, and the provision of unreliable and false evidence and testimony in the course of numerous investigations and prosecutions.

- 31. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the foregoing paragraphs as though each were set forth herein in their entirety.
- 32. Plaintiff suffered the harms and damages alleged hereinabove as a direct and proximate result of defendants' violation of his rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment to be free from malicious prosecution, wrongful conviction and incarceration, and deprivation of liberty and property without due process.

COUNT II Plaintiff v. Liciardello, Speiser, and Reynolds 42 .S.C. § 1983 (Conspiracy)

- 33. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 30 as though each were set forth in their entirety.
- 34. Defendants, acting within the scope of their employment as police officers and under color of state law, agreed between themselves and/or other individuals to act in concert to deprive plaintiff of clearly established Constitutional rights, as alleged hereinabove.
- 35. In furtherance of the conspiracy, defendants engaged in and/or facilitated multiple overt acts, including but not limited to:
 - a) fabricating probable cause to arrest plaintiff;
 - b) fabricating evidence to advance plaintiff's prosecution and/or conviction;
 - c) providing false corroboration of each other's false statements and accounts;
 - d) stealing and retaining money and/or other property belonging to plaintiff, and falsifying reports regarding plaintiff's property.

36. As a result of defendants' conspiracy and acts in furtherance of it, plaintiff suffered the harms and damages alleged hereinabove.

COUNT III Plaintiff v. City of Philadelphia 42 U.S.C. §1983

- 37. Plaintiff incorporates each of the foregoing paragraphs as though each were set forth herein in their entirety.
- 38. There is longstanding and well-known history of Philadelphia Police Officers engaging in egregious, illegal, and unconstitutional conduct in the course of investigating and prosecuting narcotics offenses, including:
 - a. the "One Squad Scandal" of the early 1980's when Philadelphia narcotics officers were convicted of selling drugs stolen from dealers;
 - b. federal convictions of the "Five Squad" for, among other things, racketeering in the 1908s;
 - c. The 39th District scandal that came to light in 1995 when members of the 39th Police District were federally prosecuted and convicted of violating the rights of, and stealing from, Philadelphians;
 - d. federal narcotics convictions that were overturned in 1998 when internal affairs found that a Philadelphia Police Department narcotics officer was potentially corrupt; and
 - e. the events described in the Philadelphia Daily News series titled "Tainted Justice."

- 39. The individual defendants' violations of plaintiff's constitutional rights and his related damages were caused, encouraged, tolerated and/or ratified through longstanding policies, practices, customs, and usages maintained by the City of Philadelphia and its Police Department.
- 40. These polices, practices, customs, and usages, all maintained with deliberate indifference, included but were not limited to:
 - a. failure to supervise, monitor, or properly train officers adequately in the proper exercise of police powers;
 - failure to supervise, monitor, and properly train police officers adequately regarding false arrest, malicious prosecution, and citizens' constitutional and civil rights;
 - c. failure to supervise, monitor, and properly train police officers regarding their duty to report and disclose the misconduct and illegal actions of other officers;
 - d. failure to monitor police officers whose conduct it knew violated constitutional and legal requirements; and
 - e. failure to supervise, investigate, or discipline appropriately defendants and other officers it knew violated citizens' rights on a repeated basis, and/or repeatedly provided false or fabricated evidence in the course of investigations, arrests, and prosecutions.
- 41. With respect to defendants and other NFU officers, the City and its high-ranking officials were aware of numerous facts and circumstances from which it did know, or could have and should have inferred, that defendants were engaged in a longstanding pattern of

illegal and unconstitutional conduct consistent with the conduct by which they victimized plaintiff.

- 42. Such facts and circumstances included but were not limited to:
 - a. numerous citizen complaints against the officers;
 - b. numerous civil lawsuits against the officers and discovery obtained therein;
 - c. numerous complaints by other officers, including complaints forwarded to the Department's Internal Affairs Division;
 - d. numerous successful motions to suppress evidence purportedly obtained by the officers in the course of their investigation.
- 43. Despite these facts and circumstances, and the known conduct of defendants, the City and its officials remained deliberately indifferent to them and the risks they engendered for the violation of citizens' rights, and failed to take any meaningful actions to address them.
- 44. Further, the City of Philadelphia is deliberately indifferent to the need to train, supervise, and discipline police officers. The Internal Affairs Division (IAD) of the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) fails to provide an internal disciplinary mechanism that imposes meaningful disciplinary and remedial actions in the following respects:
 - a. There are excessive and chronic delays in resolving disciplinary complaints;
 - b. There is a lack of consistent, rational, and meaningful disciplinary and remedial actions;
 - c. There is a failure to effectively discipline substantial numbers of officers who were found to have engaged in misconduct;

- d. The PPD's internal investigatory process has fallen below accepted practices and is arbitrary and inconsistent;
- e. The PPD's discipline, as practiced, is incident based rather than progressive.

 Thus, repeat violators are not penalized in proportion to the number of violations;
- f. The conduct of IAD officers demonstrates that PPD internal affairs personnel are inadequately trained and supervised in the proper conduct of such investigations;
- g. A global analysis of IAD's investigatory procedures indicates a pattern of administrative conduct where the benefit of the doubt is given to the officer rather than the complainant;
- h. There are serious deficiencies in the quality of IAD investigations and the validity of the IAD's findings and conclusions;
- The PPD lacks an effective early warning system to identify, track, and monitor "problem" officers;
- j. Despite the fact that the defendant officers and others assigned to the NFU had amassed an exceptionally large number of serious misconduct complaints, the officers stayed well below the radar of any early warning system;
- k. Despite numerous prior complaints against the defendant officers, the PPD took no meaningful disciplinary or remedial actions;
- 1. Despite numerous prior complaints against the defendant officers, the PPD took no meaningful steps to more closely monitor, retrain, and supervise the officers;
- m. IAD frequently fails to interview available eyewitnesses to incidents involving citizen complaints of misconduct. The interviews that are conducted by IAD are

below standards of acceptable police practice and fail to address key issues in the cases.

45. As a result, defendants operated in a "culture" that facilitated and encouraged their unconstitutional misconduct, a culture that was so firmly established as to compromise a "policy" of the City of Philadelphia, and, as aforesaid, resulted in harm to plaintiff.

VI. JURY DEMAND

46. Plaintiff demands a jury determination of all issues so triable.

VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays the Court for judgment in his favor, against all defendants, individually, jointly and severally, and asks for the following relief:

- a) compensatory and general damages;
- b) punitive damages against defendant Liciardello;
- c) attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988;
- d) such interest and other costs as are allowed by law;
- e) such other relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald J. Williams, Esquire

Attorney I.D. #36418

Beth G. Cole, Esquire

Attorney I.D. #36419

Christopher Markos, Esquire

Attorney I.D. # 308997

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Dated: 0/18/14